

21 JUNE 77

DEAR HAROLD,

RECIEVED YOUR LETTER OF 17 JUNE THIS DATE AND WILL ATTEMPT TO CLEAR UP ALL MATTERS TO DATE. FIRST, IN ANSWER TO YOUR PREVIOUS LETTER DATED THE SEVENTH OF JUNE, TELLING OF MR. KEVIN'S PHONE NUMBER. I SPOKE TO HIM REGARDING YOUR PLANS AND HE IS VERY GRACIOUS AND PROMPT GENTLEMAN IN RETURNING MY CALL, PLUS CALLING AND TELLING OF YOUR CHANGE OF PLAN AND YOUR APPEARANCE ON THE TV PROGRAM. AT YOUR NEXT OPPORTUNITY PLEASE THANK HIM FOR ME. NOW, INREGARD TO THE COMMITTEE STATING THAT YOU HAD ME STEAL ANY OF HALL'S NOTEBOOKS ETC., OF COURSE YOU KNOW THAT IS A COMPLETE LIE, AND IF IT WERE IN OPEN SESSION OF CONGRESS I FIND THE IRRESPONSIBILITY BEYOND UNDERSTANDING. I NEVER, REPEAT NEVER STOLE A DAMN THING IN MY LIFE! I CAN TELL YOU WERE THE INFO COME FROM, ONLY ONE POSSIBLE SOURCE. IF THIS KIND OF DISHONEST INFORMATION IS BEING PASSED I WOULD ONLY RESPOND TO ANY OF THE COMMITTEE'S INQUIRIES AT YOUR SUGGESTION. I HAVE NOT CONTACTED OR COORESPONDED WITH ANYONE BUT YOU (ALSO NOTHING EVEN WITH MR. KEVIN OTHER THAN YOUR TRAVEL PLANS), THAT IS WHY I ASKED YOU IN OUR LAST PHONE CONVERSATION IF IT WOULD BE ADVISED BY YOU TO SET FORTH ANY INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE, YOUR STATEMENT WAS THAT A COUPLE OF THEM WERE RESPONSIBLE. THUS, ONLY THROUGH YOU WOULD I PUT ANYTHING FORWARD. THIS YOU CAN BE ASSURED OF REGARDLESS OF ANY FUTURE INVOLVEMENT WHATSOEVER. I REALIZE THAT AS A PERSON YOU KNOW LITTLE ABOUT ME, HOWEVER THIS IS CERTAIN, I WILL AND HAVE ALWAYS DONE MY VERY BEST TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST, NOT ONLY WITH YOU BUT WITH MY BUSINESS DEALINGS, ASSOCIATES, FRIENDS, ETC. I DO NOT TRADE MY INTEGRITY OF PERSON FOR ANYTHING, AND WHEN WE MEET PERSONALLY I'M CERTAIN YOU WILL AGREE THIS IS MY STRONGEST CHARACTER. SOME THINGS I'VE DONE IN MY LIFE I'M NOT PROUD OF, BUT IN OUR RELATIONSHIP AND WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF ENTRY INTO HALL'S HOUSE WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION NOTHING WITHIN THIS ENTIRE CASE HAS BEEN A SHAME OR REGRET. YES, I DID ENTER HIS HOUSE, ALONE, WITH NO ONE'S ASSISTANCE OR KNOWLEDGE. PERIOD. NOTHING WAS TAKEN OR DISTRUBED (THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN FOOLISH, BECAUSE HALL WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY CONTACTS IN NEW ORLEANS, AND WHAT ADVANTAGE WOULD THERE BE IN ALERTING HALL, ESPECIALLY AT THAT TIME?) THE FULL CIRCUMSTANCES I WILL SET DOWN FOR YOU AT THIS TIME, AS THERE IS A MISUNDERSTANDING OF SORTS. ONE NOTE FIRST IS THAT IF THE COMMITTEE DID SOME WAY RECORD THAT YOU HAD ME STEAL, THEN THERE IS RECOURSE IN A LAW SUIT IN MY OPINION, HOWEVER ONLY IF YOU WISHED TOO, I WOULDN'T HONOR THE SLANDER MYSELF, BUT IF YOU NEED A DEPOSITION OR ANY HELP, I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO ASSIST. SURE THE BASTARDS. IF ONE OF THE COMMITTEE (YVONNE BURKE) CAN CALL YOU AN SOB, I'M SURE THEY QUALIFY FOR MY NAME CALLING. ON TO MY CLARIFICATION OF THE SUBJECT AT HAND. I DID, AS I STATED ENTER HALL'S HOME, THE DATE WAS THE FOURTH OF JULY '67. I DETERMINED THAT THERE WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY MINIMUM RISK. I TOOK A LUNCHK TO MRS. HALL AT WILSON'S REAL ESTATE OFFICE IN WOFFORD HEIGHTS, CALIF. HALL WAS WORKING BARTENDER DAY SHIFT. I WAS IN AND OUT IN ABOUT ONE HOUR AT HIS HOME IN KERNVILLE, SOME EIGHT MILES AWAY. I WANTED TO BE CERTAIN THAT IF I WAS TO BE INVOLVED THAT HALL WAS INDIVIDUAL THAT HAD FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE ASSASSINATION. I WAS NOT LOOKING FOR ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR, JUST CONFIRMATION. I'M NOT A WATERGATE PERSON, AND HAD NEVER DONE BEFORE OR SINCE ANYTHING OF THIS NATURE. NOONZ, IN MY

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OPINION WAS THE MOST LOGICAL TIME. THUS, DURING THE ENTRY I TOOK A VERY INEXPENSIVE CAMERA WITH ME, BUT NOT REALLY KNOWING WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR, I ASSUMED IF SOMETHING OF IMPORTANCE (COORESPONDANCE, ETC.) WAS AVAILABLE I WOULD PHOTOGRAPH IT, AND LEAVE EVERYTHING IN ORDER. THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT OCCURRED. I TOOK EIGHT EXPOSURES, NOT OF GOOD QUALITY, BUT READABLE IN NATURAL DAYLIGHT OF A NOTEBOOK FOUND WITHIN HIS HOME. THERE WERE NAMES, NUMEROUS PHONE AND WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN PO BOX NUMBERS. MANY OF SPANISH VARIETY. AGAIN I WILL REPEAT, NOTHING WAS TAKEN. HALL HAD AT LEAST TWO HANDGUNS AND A 30-06 SPRINGFIELD SPORTERIZED RIFLE ON THE PREMISES. ALSO, THERE WAS SOME SMALL BILLS AND CHANGE ON WHAT SEEMINGLY SERVED AS A DRESSER. I HAD THIS FILM PROCESSED IN LAKE ISABELLA THE NEXT DAY. (IT TOOK NEARLY ONE WEEK TO RETURN AS FILM WAS SENT ON TO BAKERSFIELD) NOW DURING THIS TIME I HAD CONTACT WITH GARRISON AND THIS IS HOW THE EXHIBITS WERE LOST. I HAVE STILL A FIREND (SP) I ASKED TO BE WITNESS WITH ME WHEN GARRISON SENT A LIFE REPORTER BY THE NAME OF OCHALA (I'M NOT CERTAIN OF THE SPELLING, BUT I STILL HAVE THE INTRODUCTION LETTER IN FILES, NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESENT) THIS MAN AND AN PHOTO ASSISTANT CAME TO THE LAKE ISABELLA AREA AND CONTACTED ME IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON (I DO NOT HAVE THE EXACT DATE WITH ME EITHER, BUT IT WAS MOST LIKELY MID JULY) THIS IS WHEN I CONTACTED IN TURN MY FRIEND, NOT ASKING FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN BEING A WITNESS FOR ME. THE FULL MEETING WITH THESE TWO WAS SET FOR SEVEN PM THAT EVENING AT THE MOTEL IN LAKE ISABELLA WHERE THEY WERE STAYING. I DIDN'T CARE FOR THEIR APPROACH, NOR WHERE QUESTIONS ANSWERED ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MEETING, THEY SEEMED ON A HILLBILLY EXCURSION. THEY WENT FROM LAKE ISABELLA DIRECTLY TO HALL IN WOFFORD HTS., TO A PRE-PLANNED APPOINTMENT WITH HALL. THIS REALLY WAS AN EXPIERANCE (SP) I WAS DUMB FOUNDED TO UNDERSTAND THIS. (LATER, OCHALA EXPLAINED IT OFF AS "HE PERSONALLY KNEW HALL AND HE DIDN'T WISH TO TAKE MY WORD FOR CERTAIN". NEEDLESS TO SAY AT THIS POINT MY FRIEND WAS GETTING APPREHENSIVE, AND I HAD NO EXPLANATION TO OFFER, I COULDN'T IMAGINE DOING SUCH A THING. HALL WAS GREATLY SUSPICIOUS OF HOW HE WAS SO EASILY "FOUND", AND THIS BECAME A CALAMITY OF ERRORS, BUT TO THIS DAY HAROLD I FEEL THAT THIS CHARACTER ~~FROM~~ FROM "LIFE" WAS SETTING EVERYONE INCLUDING GARRISON, HALL, MYSELF UP FOR SOME TYPE EXPOSURE. HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO STUPID, IT SIMPLY HAD TO BE DEVISIOUS (SP) IN MY OPINION. ANYWAY, I WAITED TILL TEN O'CLOCK THAT ~~BOTH~~ NIGHT, AND THESE TWO WERE STILL INTERVIEWING HALL. WHEN THEY FINALLY CAME FROM KERNVILLE TO LAKE ISABELLA THE PHOTOGRAPHER WAS STRICKLY "SMART-ASSED", AND THEY COULD CARED LESS WHAT THIS ENTIRE MEETING WAS ABOUT. A MEETING WAS RESET FOR THE NEXT DAY, AND THIS POINT, I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO GET INVOLVE WITH ANYONE SO STUPID, THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY, IT WAS INCONCIEVEABLE TO ME THAT THESE MEN COULD BE CONSIDERED INVESTIGATORS OR EVEN HALF INTELLIGENT REPORTERS. I CAN'T CONVEY MY DISAPPOINTMENT, THESE IDIOTS WERE DEALING WITH PEOPLE THAT WOULD JUST AS SOON WIPE YOU OUT AS LOOK AT YOU AND THEY DIDN'T CARE IN THE LEAST FOR ANYONE'S PERSONAL SAFETY. LATER THAT SAME NIGHT OR EARLY AM (BARS CLOSE AT TWO AM) MY FRIEND (I WILL GIVE YOU ONLY HIS NAME UPON REQUEST, BECAUSE OF WHAT OCCURRED) STATED HE DIDN'T WISH TO BE INVOLVED AND

I CAN TRUTHFULLY UNDERSTAND, BECAUSE I CAME VERY CLOSE MYSELF TO SAYING "TO HELL WITH IT", AND THE ORIGINAL PRINTS AND NEGATIVES WERE TORN TO SMALL PIECES AND FLUSHED DOWN THE TOILET. THUS, I DID GET HIM TO AGREED TO MEET THE NEXT DAY WITH THESE TWO "IDIOTS". THEY WANTED THE PHOTOS AND THE COMPLETE STORY. WHEN WE MET THEY WERE ~~ANXIOUS~~ ANXIOUS TO "GET ON THEIR WAY" AND FELT THEY HAD ALL THE INFORMATION THAT WAS AVAILABLE. THE FINAL MEETING WAS RECORDED AFTER THEY ASSURED ME THAT ONLY GARRISON WOULD HAVE THE MATERIAL AND INFORMATION. THE PHOTOGRAPHER WAS INSULTING AND CLAIMED I COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THE TYPE OF PICTURE I DID UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. IN ALL I REFUSED MUCH MORE THAN THE BRIEF INFORMATION ON MYSELF PERSONALLY, AND I DIDN'T COOPERATE BEYOND THAT. I TELEPHONED TO NEW ORLEANS THE NEXT DAY TO INQUIRE AS TO WHY THESE TWO HAD BEEN EVEN BOTHERED WITH AND WHAT EXACTLY WAS THEIR PURPOSE. THE MEETING AS ORIGINALLY SET UP WITH GARRISON WAS TO PASS ALONG THE PHOTOS, AND SIMPLY TO REMAIN IN AN INFORMANT STATUS. I WAS FINALLY CONTACTED (ON A SUNDAY) BY GARRISON HIMSELF, AND HE APOLOGIZED THAT "SHORTAGE OF STAFF" ETC. THAT I SHOULD BRING THE PHOTOS TO NOLEANS MYSELF. GARRISON SAID HE DIDN'T TRUST THE MAIL AND OR HIS PHONE. CAN YOU UNDERSTAND MY THOUGHTS OF THE TIME? IT'S EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW. I DON'T EVEN KNOW FOR CERTAIN IF THERE WERE HELPFUL INFO ON THE PHOTOS, I WROTE DOWN SEVERAL OF THE NAMES, BUT NOT NEARLY ALL THAT WAS CONTAINED, ESPECIALLY NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES. ONLY ONE THAT I RECALL HAS EVER COME OUT SINCE. A DALLAS ADDRESS MARKED "CASA VIEW", WHICH I BELIEVE NOW WAS MRS. ODIO'S ADDRESS. YES I'D LIKE TO BE POSITIVE. I'M CERTAIN HALL NEVER KNEW THIS HAPPEN. HOWEVER, AFTER GARRISON CHARGED HALL AT THE END OF THE YEAR (67) AND HIS NAME HIT THE NEWS HALL RELATED THAT "SOME OF GARRISON'S MEN HAD STOLEN HIS PERSONAL "PAPERS". HE MADE A DEFINITE POINT OF THIS TO ME PERSONALLY AND I BELIEVE HE WAS LOOKING FOR SOME TYPE OF RESPONSE, HOWEVER HE STILL TOOK ME AS A "BUDDY" AND HIS PARANOID COMPLEXES WERE BEING DRAWN OUT AT THIS TIME (CARRIED A GUN, EVEN TWO AT THE BAR, AND ALSO IN HIS ~~FE~~ PICKUP) HALL'S NOT CERTAIN WHAT OR HOW MUCH HE TOLD ME PREVIOUS AND I BELIEVE TODAY HE CAN'T RECALL, THERE WERE TO MANY TIMES HE WAS JUST IN HIS "CUPS", BUT HIS STORIES, CONTRASTING TO WHAT HE MAY HAVE TOLD YOU IN '68 AND NOW, TO ME WOULD VARY, MOSTLY AS TO HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT. AT ONE TIME HE WAS, I FEEL, REALLY TRYING TO IMPRESS ME, WHY I DON'T KNOW, BUT POSSIBLY HE NEEDED TO UNLOAD TO A "FRIEND". HALL ALSO KNOWS "NOTHING WAS STOLEN FROM HIM" OR ELSE I'M CERTAIN HE WOULD HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO FIND OUT WHO. IMPORTANTLY, ANY NOTEBOOKS OR MATERIALS HE OR HIS ATTORNEY PUTS FORTH WOULD BE GREATLY SUSPECT. I DON'T BELIEVE HE RETAINED ANYTHING AFTER GARRISON CHARGED HIM. HE WAS SCARED. OF EXACTLY WHO AND WHAT I DON'T REALLY KNOW, BUT I'M SURE IT HAD TO BE FORMER ASSOCIATES. HALL WAS REALLY "LOOKING OVER HIS SHOULDER" FOR THIS PERIOD, AND I STILL BELIEVE HIS HEALTH FAILURE SHORTLY THEREAFTER WAS CAUSED BY THE TENSION AND REAL FEAR HE WAS CARRYING WITH HIM. AGAIN, I COULD BE MISTAKEN, BUT YOU WOULD HAVE TO HAVE BEEN THERE AT THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND THE CHANGE, THUS I FEEL THAT ANY PERSONAL PAPERS, ETC. WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. I'M INDEED CURIOUS AS TO HALL'S PRESENT LAWYER (A COUSIN AS YOU WROTE) THIS IS A NEW ONE. I'D BE CURIOUS ENOUGH TO RUN A CHECK ON HIM. ALSO, AS I STATED ABOVE I WOULD LIKE, IF POSSIBLE

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A DESCRIPTION OF HALL'S NOTEBOOK, JUST TO SEE IF IT'S THE SAME ONE I FOUND AT HIS HOME TEN YEARS AGO. WOULD THIS BE POSSIBLE? I'M CERTAIN THAT I COULD IDENTIFY IT. IN FACT, IF YOU WISH I WILL SEND UPON YOUR REQUEST A DESCRIPTION SO AS TO VERIFY THAT THE NOTEBOOK COULD INDEED BE FROM THAT PERIOD.

MY PLANS ARE TO BE TRAVELING AFTER THE FIRST OF JULY FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST ONE AND POSSIBLY TWO MONTHS. I WILL INFORM YOU AS TO THE EXACT LOCATION.

AN AFTER THOUGHT ON THE COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT OF STEALING HALL PAPERS, ETC. HAROLD, THAT KIND OF STATEMENT CAN GET ME IN MORE TROUBLE FROM HALL AND OR HIS SO CALLED ~~FERN~~ ASSOCIATES. ANOTHER THING THAT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND.

THE SOURCE OF THE INFO TO THE COMMITTEE, AS YOU KNOW, HAD TO COME FROM GARRISON'S FILES OR SOMEONE WHO HAD ACCESS TO HIS FILES.

I HOPE THIS CLEARS UP HOW THIS CAME ABOUT, I SINCERELY WISH TO HELP IN ANYWAY POSSIBLE, BUT IF SOME COW-HEADED CONGRESSMAN/WOMAN IS STUPID ENOUGH TO PASS ALONG THAT KIND OF INFORMATION, I'M NOW REALIZING SOME OF WHAT YOU HAVE HAD TO GO THROUGH FOR SO LONG.

PROTECT YOUR HEALTH. I WISH IT WERE FINACIALLY POSSIBLE ON MY PART TO DO SOME TRAVEL, OR EVEN RESEARCH FOR YOU.

ANYTHING ELSE THAT CAN FILL THE GAPS I WILL FORWARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IF YOU STILL INTEND ON GOING TO L.A., I WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GET THERE FOR A PERSONAL MEETING.

SINCERELY,


"CORKY"

MY BEST TO YOUR WIFE.